

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

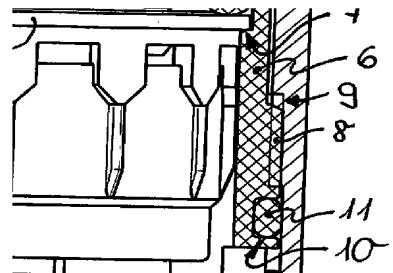
Application No. : 10/529,968 Confirmation No. : 6272
First Named Inventor : Christoph WEIS
Filed : August 08, 2003
TC/A.U. : 3752
Examiner : Steven M. Cernoch
Docket No. : 105433.62118US
Title : Plumbing Outlet Fitting

REPLY

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated November 12, 2010, reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application are respectfully requested. Claims 15, 16, 18-23, 25 and 27-42 remain pending and are rejected for obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of the combination of U.S. Patent No. 4,534,514 to Aghnides et al. (“Aghnides”), U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0084353 to Griffin et al. (“Griffin”) and U.S. Patent No. 2,989,249 to Richter (“Richter”).¹ This ground of rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants’ claim 15 recites a sanitary outflow armature with a hollow, cylindrical sleeve-shaped intermediate holder that “includes an annular groove holding an annular seal that provides a seal in the radial direction between the intermediate holder (6) and an inner periphery of the fitting outlet (4).” A non-limiting example of this can be seen in Fig. 1 of the present application (a portion of which is reproduced on the right), in which annular seal 11 is held in a groove of intermediate holder 6 to provide a seal in the radial direction between intermediate holder 6 and an inner periphery of fitting outlet 4.



¹ Although the header of the rejection only references Aghnides and Griffin, from the body of the rejection it is clear that the rejection relies on the combination of Aghnides, Griffin and Richter.